

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification and drawings. The Examiner also objected to claims 1 and 14 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Additionally, claims 1-6, 11, 14, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dallen. Additionally, claims 7-10 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dallen in view of Anquetin. Finally, claims 12 and 13 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten.

Applicant has addressed the typographical error that resulted in the Examiner's objection to the specification by canceling claims 16-18 and inserting new claims 22-25. Claim 22 is entirely new to the Examiner and discloses that the longitudinal slot comprises opposing sidewalls. New claim 25 is based upon canceled claim 18 and corrects the typographical error that omitted reference to the distances between the sidewalls.

The Examiner's objections to the drawings are now moot in view of Applicant's cancellation of claims 16-18 and the addition of new claims 22-25.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is also moot in view of Applicant's cancellation of claims 1 and 14. However, Applicant notes that the points raised by the Examiner in regard to the indefiniteness rejections have been addressed in new claims 20 and 21.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 20 and 21 are allowable. In claim 20, the inner wall of the muntin is described as having a planar surface. Upon insertion of the body of the terminal plug into the muntin, the plurality of spring elements that extend from the plug body engage this planar surface and create a press fit for the terminal plug in the muntin. This structure differs from that of Dallen wherein the sidewall portions 34, 36 include inwardly extending protrusions 44 that form a locking engagement (rather than press

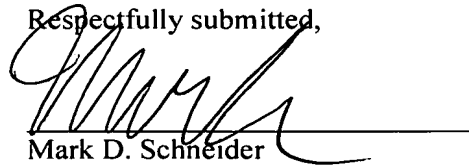
fit) with the plurality of protrusions 56 of the tongue portion 50. The advantages of a press fit versus the locking arrangement of Dallan are clear since the press fit arrangement of the present invention permit (if necessary) easier removal of the terminal plug from the muntin relative to the lock fit created by Dallan.

In claim 21, the plurality of spring elements are described as having a width with the plug body that is greater than the width of the hollow space. This structure is inherent from the description of the spring elements on page 4, lines 1-6 wherein the spring elements are described as being used for compensating for gap tolerance and for providing a nearly friction-tight engagement connection with the inner wall of the muntin bar. Clearly, if the outside width of the spring elements with the plug body were less than or equal to the width of the inner wall of the muntin, such a press fit of the spring elements with the muntin could not be accomplished. This oversized plug body/spring element combination is not shown or suggested by the prior art.

New claims 26 and 27 are rewritten versions of claims 12 and 13. In view of the Examiner's previous remarks, these claims are also properly allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Lynn Hill